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REMARKS

The Official Action dated October 16, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 4 and 5 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein while the specification and claim 8 has been amended in order to better define that which Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 6-8 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, Applicant wishes to acknowledge the Examiner's indication on page 5 of the Office Action that claims 1-3, 6 and 7 are allowable over the prior art of record and that claim 8 insofar as it depends from any one of independent claims 1-3 and 6-7 is likewise allowable over the prior art of record. With the foregoing amendments, and particularly the cancellation of claims 4 and 5, as well as the amendments to claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claimed invention is now in proper condition for allowance.

Turning now to page 2 of the Office Action, the disclosure has been objected to as including informalities. Particularly, the Examiner notes that the specification refers to the claims on pages 5-9 thereof. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, the specification has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's specification is now in proper formal condition for allowance.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 4 and 4/8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art set forth in Figs. 17-20 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,661,357 issued to Iijima. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that with the foregoing amendments, independent claim 4 has been canceled and the dependency of claim 8 has been amended in order not to refer to claim 4.

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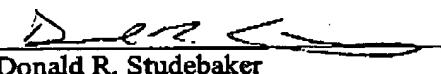
Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that further discussion with respect to the foregoing rejection is no longer believed to be warranted.

Turning now to page 4 of the Office Action, claim 5 as well as dependent claim 8 insofar as it depends from claim 5 have been rejected under the judicially created Doctrine of Obviousness Type Double Patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2 and 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,927,523 in view of Iijima. This rejection is likewise respectfully traversed in that with the cancellation of independent claim 5 as well as the foregoing amendments to dependent claim 8, it is now respectfully submitted that Applicants' claimed invention is now in proper condition for allowance.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the objections and rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 1-3 and 6-8 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,


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